

of grass and water transported by rail to drought hit States from 1st January to 15th July, 2000 is as under:

Name of State	Quantity of Grass (in Tonnes)	Quantity of Water (in terms of Tonnes)
Gujarat	2,60,419	3,81,900
Rajasthan	1,28,528	53,013
Andhra Pradesh	9,031	Nil
Orissa	Nil	5,653

(c) Nil.

(d) The amount of freight waived by the Railways for transporting **the** materials amounts to Rs. 14.31 Crore.

Pondicherry Vilupuram Rail Line

1532. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Pondicherry Vilupuram rail line would be converted from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge;

(b) for how long the conversion is pending; and

(c) how many kilometre of conversion has been done so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The target date is not yet fixed.

(b) to (c) The conversion work was included in the budget 1998-99 and after obtaining the requisite clearances, the work is now being started. No length on the project has yet been converted. However, on the entire Indian Railways, 8702 km of gauge conversion has been completed so far under Project Uni-gauge.